



**Office of Planning and Environmental Management
Interpretation of Planning Rules
Governing
Regionally Important Resources**

Nominations for RIR designation

When submitting the Regional Resource Plan for official review by DCA, the RC must include a list of all RIR nominations that were received by the RC. For each nomination, indicate:

- Whether the resource was selected for inclusion in the Resource Plan
- If not, explain why the resource was not chosen

Public involvement in development of the Regional Resource Plan

The RC must involve all appropriate regional stakeholders in the process of soliciting RIR nominations, to ensure a comprehensive effort is made to identify all of the important natural and cultural resources in the region. When submitting the Regional Resource Plan for official review by DCA, the RC must include a description of the stakeholder involvement process it employed in developing the Resource Plan.

RIR map

Although generating a number of GIS map layers is likely necessary for carrying out the analysis required in the RIR rules, the final RIR map included in the Regional Resource Plan submitted for official review by DCA should be a simple map that contains only the following:

- Jurisdictional boundaries
 - The individual resources that were selected as RIRs
 - The “green infrastructure network” identified to link these resources
- [Note: not all of the individual RIRs have to be “linked” together into the regional green infrastructure network.]

RIR map and supporting narrative

If a resource has been determined important enough to be included on the RIR map, then it must be discussed in the narrative of the Regional Resource Plan. This discussion must address:

- The resource’s value – how the RC determined that the resource was of sufficient regional importance to be included on the RIR map.
- The resource’s vulnerability – indicating the degree to which the resource is threatened or endangered.

State Vital Areas and Environmental Planning Criteria

Since State Vital Areas and critical protection areas for the resources included in the Environmental Planning Criteria are required to be included on the RIR map, these resources must also be addressed in the narrative of the Regional Resource Plan as outlined above.

Addressing resources that cross regional boundaries (e.g. Floridan aquifer)

RCs should coordinate with neighboring RCs and develop compatible Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices and General Policies and Protection Measures for protecting such trans-regional resources.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices and General Policies and Protection Measures

The Guidance and Policies may be broken out (or vary) by resource type.

General Policies and Protection Measures

The RC must supplement the general guidance in this section of the Regional Resource Plan with example ordinances, policies and enhancement activities that the RC recommends for use by local governments in order to adequately protect the identified resources. These supporting materials may be included in an appendix to the Resource Plan or linked as web resources. [Note: DCA is researching available ordinances and other resources that may be useful to the RCs. These will be available on our website.]